

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00838 192311Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 NSF-01 NAS-01 COME-00 CU-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
SP-02 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /048 W
-----192328Z 104312 /61
R 191208Z JAN 77K
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3229
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0838

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: SUNDAY SEMINAR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION

REF: MOSCOW 362

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE "SUNDAY SEMINAR." THE ORGANIZERS PLAN A THREE-DAY SESSION BEGINNING APRIL 17. THEY EXPECT THAT ABOUT TWENTY PAPERS WILL BE READ. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT PAPERS ON ANY SUBJECT IN THE "EXACT SCIENCES." MOST PAPERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ON THEMES IN PHYSICS, CYBERNETICS AND MATHEMATICS. THERE WILL PERHAPS ALSO BE ONE OR TWO PAPERS ON SUBJECTS IN BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY.

2. NO FOREIGNERS WILL BE FORMALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE SESSION, ALTHOUGH SHOULD ANY FOREIGN SCIENTISTS WISH TO PARTICIPATE, THEY WILL BE WELCOME. THE ORGANIZERS CURRENTLY PLAN NO PRESS CONFERENCE AND DO NOT NOW INTEND TO SEEK WESTERN PUBLICITY FOR THE ANNIVERSARY SESSION. BY KEEPING THE EXPANDED SEMINAR AS LOW-KEY AS POSSIBLE, THE ORGANIZERS HOPE TO INCREASE THEIR CHANCES OF IMPLEMENTING THEIR PLANS WITHOUT TOO MUCH HARASSMENT FROM THE AUTHORITIES. THEY DO NOT RULE OUT, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION MAY NOT TAKE PLACE.
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3. WE GATHER THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THE QUIET APPROACH. OUR SOURCES FEEL THAT HAVING "GONE PUBLIC" FOR THE ABORTIVE CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM, THEY SHOULD TRY A DIFFERENT LOOK THIS TIME. THEY ALSO GENUINELY WANT THE ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE SUNDAY SEMINAR TO TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO PROVE TO THEMSELVES THAT THEY ARE STILL CONVERSANT SCIENTISTS EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY

HOLD NO OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

4. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR NOT ROCKING THE BOAT NOW. THE SEMINAR LEADERSHIP UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SEMINAR MAY SOON BE ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PHYSICS SOCIETY. MEMBERSHIP IN THE E.P.S. REPORTEDLY WILL ENABLE THE SUNDAY SEMINAR TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT FROM THIS BODY AND FROM NATIONAL PHYSICS SOCIETIES. IT SHOULD RESULT IN THE SEMINAR BEING BETTER ABLE TO RESIST PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES. ALTHOUGH THE PHYSICS SECTION OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IS A MEMBER OF THE E.P.S., OUR SOURCES SAY THAT THIS WILL NOT PREVENT THE SUNDAY SEMINAR FROM BEING ACCEPTED AS WELL. OUR SOURCES NOTE THAT THEY HAVE SENT IN THEIR APPLICATION AND UNDERSTAND THAT THE SUNDAY SEMINAR WILL BE ACCEPTED AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE E.P.S. WITHIN ONE YEAR. THE SEMINAR LEADERS STATE THAT THE SUNDAY SEMINAR IS NOW SO WELL ESTABLISHED THAT EVEN IF THE PRESENT MEMBERSHIP WAS TO RECEIVE PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE NOW, THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH NEW MEMBERS FOR THE SEMINAR TO CONTINUE ITS WORK IDEFINITELY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SCIENTISTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW00838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770020-0710
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770137/aaaabgku.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6e8a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 362
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3559759
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUNDAY SEMINAR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION
TAGS: PINT, UR
To: STATE LENINGRAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6e8a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009